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MINUTES

HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday October 18, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Webex Event

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D , Chair
Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Member

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the September 20, 2022 meeting minutes.

3) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (EHERT)

Jonathan Piakis, MPH, CIH, Environmental Health Services Branch, Population Health Division, presented the item.

Public Comment:

A UCSF Pharmacy student asked if the team provides services to unhouse populations, including dealing with waste at encampments. Mr. Piakis stated that the team provides services to everyone in San Francisco, including unhoused individuals. He noted that some of their work involves dealing with hazardous waste and spills related to unhoused individuals.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giruado asked for some examples of incidents from 2022. Mr. Piakis stated that the team has address hazardous waste near a park, clandestine drug labs, and leakages of a building's refrigeration system gas.

Commissioner Giraudo stated that only having two team members means that one of the two is on call every other week. She asked if training is a challenge. Mr. Piakis stated that team members are on call every two weeks for two weeks. He noted that there has been less interest in the field of hazardous waste so the DPH is doing all it can to create a pipeline through youth. He also noted that the team participates in education events in an effort to spread the word about these jobs.

Commissioner Chung noted that the first event that launched this team occurred decades ago and commented that the evolution of technology must have changed the operation of the team. Mr. Piakis stated that technology enables live readings of material onsite in real time.

Commissioner Chung asked if the DPH conducts waste clean ups or does it utilize contractors. Mr. Piakis stated that the team attempts to take care of clean-ups unless the situation is too big or too complex.

4) PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Priscilla Chu, Dr.PH, MPH, Population Health Division, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Silvia, UCSF Pharmacy student, suggested that the DPH website be updated with more information on birth control and abortion, noting that it currently contains a lot of information about pregnancy.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo thanked Dr. Chu for the presentation and her important work.

5) EMERGING ISSUES

This item was not discussed.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm.